

FOCUS ON THE ARTS

CULTURAL ARTS

SPRING 2002

ColorPlay Sculpture Selected to Adorn Fallsgrove

Artist Stephen Canneto Says Sense of 'People Joining Together' Inspired Him

After a yearlong search, the Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously selected artist Stephen Canneto's sleek sculpture "ColorPlay" to adorn The Village Green at the new Fallsgrove development.

Canneto's site-specific sculpture includes stainless steel figures reaching up to hold a contemporary stainless steel sphere made of colored glass with a multi-tiered base. Canneto said Rockville's strong community foundation, coupled with Fallsgrove's contemporary design and the vitality of a traditional mixed community, inspired him to create the sculpture.

ColorPlay will be the centerpiece of the developing community and keenly visible from the heavily-traveled Shady Grove Road entrance to the development. The exact dimensions of the sculpture and the design of the base will be decided in the next several weeks.

"ColorPlay's stainless steel figures

evoke the timeless traditions of people joining together across generations," said Canneto, whose artistic experiences range from designing gold miniatures for Cartier to creating one of Columbus, Ohio's largest works of public art.

"They work and play in cooperative spirit while meeting the challenges of the moment. The colored-glass and stainless-steel sphere symbolize the challenges that

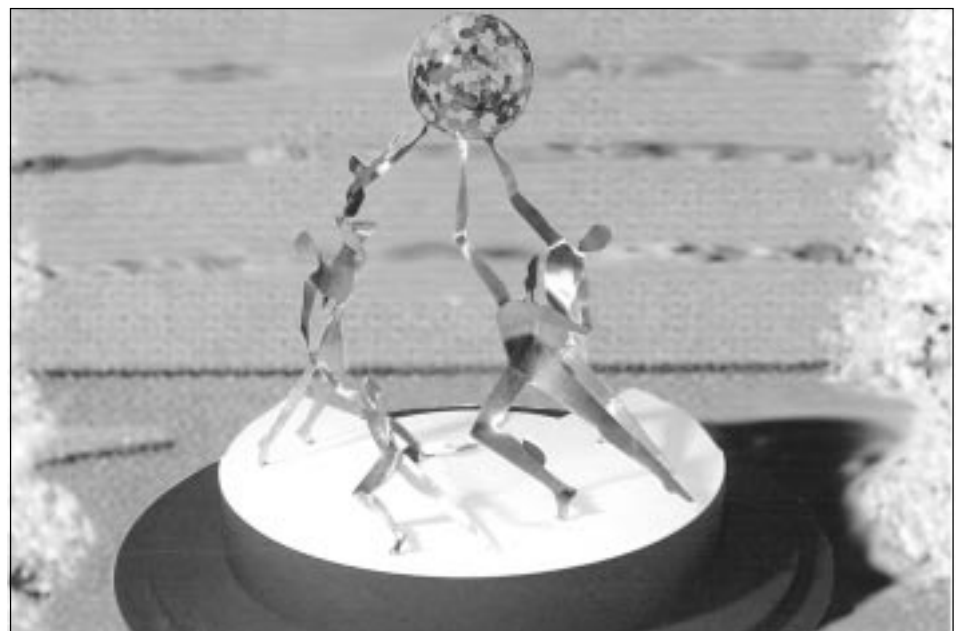
life presents."

The initial decision to select Canneto was based on a unanimous recommendation by the Artist Nomination Committee that was composed of neighborhood residents, the community developer, the project's landscape architect, an art expert and members of the Cultural Arts Commission.

After receiving slides and biographical information from more than 90 artists around the country, the Artists Nomina-

"ColorPlay's stainless steel figures evoke the timeless traditions of people joining together across generations."

— Artist Stephen Canneto



Coming Soon... Stephen Canneto's sculpture ColorPlay was approved by the Mayor and Council on Feb. 11. A preliminary design of the sculpture is pictured above.

tion Committee selected four finalists to come to Rockville and present their proposals to the committee in January. The four models were on public display in City Hall for a month beginning in mid-January.

The committee then unanimously recommended Canneto's artwork to the City's Cultural Arts Commission and Rockville's Mayor and Council. Both unanimously supported awarding Canneto the \$150,000 commission to design, fabricate and install ColorPlay. The City funded \$75,000 of the commission and \$75,000

was funded by Fallsgrove Associates.

Some of the criteria used to judge the art were beauty, appropriateness, safety, durability and maintenance.

Canneto has created 16 large-scale sculptures for art in public places programs in Columbus, and his artwork has been included in invitational shows at the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C., and other museums. Indoors and outdoors, his artwork has adorned corporate sites, inspirational public places and residential communities. ■

Everyone Is Looking Up At Lincoln Park

It's hard not to look up when you walk into the foyer of the Lincoln Park Community Center, thanks to local artist Deirdre Saunder.

Saunder was chosen last year to design a public art project for the community center in the Lincoln Park community. And the modern day mobile she created called "Reach for the Stars" has sent spirits soaring at the center.

The suspended artwork features seven transparent plastic stars that hang from the ceiling and swirl in sequence with the air circulation in the room. The floor to ceiling glass in the community center lobby allows light to filter through the stars, playing colorful games with shadows on the walls.



"It depicts one of our best-known constellations—the Little Dipper—with its beloved Polaris," said Saunder. "Like the community center itself, Polaris epitomizes dependability, constancy, destination and inspiration."

On Sunday, Feb. 24, the Mayor and



Star Gazing... Momentarily taking their eyes off the ceiling at the dedication of the "Reach for the Stars" mobile (at left) at the Lincoln Park Community Center are, from left to right: Cultural Arts Commission Chairperson John Moser, Councilmember Susan Hoffmann, Mayor Larry Giammo, Artist Deirdre Saunder and Councilmembers Anne Robbins and John Hall.

Council, the City's Cultural Arts Commission and many members of the community gathered at the center to dedicate the public art project.

Saunder also recently installed a mosaic mural at the Croydon Creek Nature Center in Rockville Civic Center Park, which will celebrate its

grand opening on April 21.

Since 1978, the City has commissioned 35 site-specific works of art to enhance a variety of city facilities, parks and buildings under its Art In Public Places program.

For more information on Art In Public Places, call 301-309-3357. ■

A Sample of Rockville’s Finest Art Supporters

When **Claudia Mangan** arrived at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre to watch the annual Rockville Arts Sampler production on Sunday, March 10, she had just left ballet rehearsal and was eagerly anticipating watching the vignette that the Rockville Civic Ballet would perform in front of the packed theatre. As expected, the performance was spectacular.

Then came the unexpected for Mangan. She was presented with Rockville’s **Lifetime Achievement Award** for her outstanding work and dedication in the performing arts.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, and six other special awards given that

“*Claudia Mangan has provided an opportunity for residents to enjoy a quality performance at an affordable price.*”

– **Councilmember Bob Dorsey**

afternoon, are presented by Rockville’s Mayor and Council.

“I was really surprised to win this,” Mangan said of receiving the prestigious award. “I had no idea.”

But those who know Mangan were not surprised at all.

For the past 25 years, she has worked with dancers of all ages and varied abilities, often wowing audiences with the original choreography, costumes and sets she helps design for the Rockville Civic Ballet.

A great deal of her time annually has been spent directing the Rockville Civic Ballet’s production of “The Nutcracker,” as well as spring and summer productions.

“Longevity has its place,” said Councilmember Bob Dorsey, who presented Mangan with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the sampler. “She has provided an opportunity for residents to enjoy a quality performance at an affordable price.”

Among the other winners was **James Sadler**, who also received a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his work with a local men’s chorus.

Much can be said of Sadler, who in the early 1970’s founded the Rockville Men’s Chorus.

Sadler played a lead role in arranging the “Rockville City March” and initiated a concert featuring the Rockville Singers and the Rockville Men’s Chorus to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This



And The Award Goes To... Katrina Sten, Claudia Mangan and Joel Garies proudly display their awards at the Rockville Arts Sampler on March 10. They were three of seven winners honored that afternoon.

concert’s proceeds benefited the Community Ministries of Rockville and its programs to help some of the City’s neediest residents.

Other award winners included, **Joel Garies**, who received the City’s **Volunteer Support to the Arts** award for the long weekend hours he spent designing the set for The Rockville Little Theatre’s fall production of “Seven Keys to Baldpate.”

He has previously served on Rockville Little Theatre’s Board of Directors as president, vice president and business manager/treasurer.

“He exemplifies the qualities of a true volunteer—someone who is always there when you need him,” said Councilmember John Hall, who presented Garies with the award.

Fallsgrove Associates received the **Corporate Support to the Arts** in Rockville award for its financial contribution to a recent public art project in The Village Green at Fallsgrove.

Fallsgrove Associates and the City equally funded the \$150,000 budget for the project. In addition, Bob

“*Joel Garies exemplifies the qualities of a true volunteer—someone who is always there when you need him.*”

– **Councilmember John Hall**

Youngentob served as the developer’s representative on the Artist Nomination Committee. Continuing in the spirit of a public/private partnership, Fallsgrove Associates will dedicate The Village Green to the City of Rockville when the project is complete.

“One way we can measure the quality of life in a community is how corporate partners participate in the arts,” said Councilmember Susan Hoffmann. “This project is a very good example of a successful public-private partnership.”

Katie Hillesland, a senior at Rockville High School, received the

Rockville High School Student Award for Achievement. She was recently named a merit winner for the prestigious national Arts Recognition and Talent Search competition for high school seniors and her advancement placement studio art portfolio received the highest rating from the Educational Testing Service.

Katrina Sten, a senior at Rockville High School, received the **Rockville High School Student Award for Achievement**. She recently played the role as Adelaide in the Rockville High School production of “Guys and

“*One way we can measure the quality of life in a community is how corporate partners participate in the arts. This project is a very good example of a successful public-private partnership.*”

– **Councilmember Susan Hoffmann**

Dolls.” She has performed at the National Building Museum, the Shrine of Immaculate Conception, the National Cathedral, The Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Thomas Divita, a junior at Richard Montgomery High School, received the **Rockville High School Student Award for Achievement** for his outstanding work in graphic design. His illustration and design for the Woodley Gardens Civic Association’s letterhead recently earned him rave reviews. He is enrolled in the Visual Arts Center at Einstein High School.

A special thanks goes to Rockville residents **Carole Butler**, chairperson, and committee members **Ken Lechter**, **Eileen Mader**, **Hsien-Ann Meng**, and **Maura Parrott** for their time and effort toward the success of the 2002 Rockville Arts Sampler. ■

Concert Band To Deliver a Home-Run Performance On April 28

Mayor to Read Poem “Casey at the Bat”

The only thing missing from the Rockville Concert Band’s Sunday, April 28, performance will be hotdogs and peanuts.

With the opening of the upcoming baseball season in mind, the band will deliver a heart-warming performance, highlighted by a special rendition of the greatest all-time poem relating to America’s national past time.

The concert will feature Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo reading the beloved story, “Casey at the Bat,” accompanied by the 75-member volunteer community band playing in the background.

The free concert will be held at 3 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville Civic Center Park. The Rock’n Ville Swing Band will kick off the event with a pre-concert show in the theatre lobby. Admission is free to both events.

“This band is an extraordinary group in terms of their dedication,” said Vincent Patterson, who has been the Concert Band’s conductor since 1995. “The audience should be prepared to feel like they’re at the ballgame on April 28. The tunes will be a fun formation of medleys, like ‘Take Me Out to the Ball Game’ and other recognizable game favorites that will get feet tapping.”

Unlike most community bands, the Rockville Concert Band has rehearsed religiously every Tuesday evening for the past 45 years. And it’s that undying dedication, fans say, that makes all of the concerts, marches, parades and Broadway shows the group performs so outstanding.

Band members range in age from 28 to over 85 and many of the members have been playing with the group since it started.

Although there isn’t a professional baseball player in the band, there are doctors, mapmakers, accountants, computer technicians and even a professional washboard player. Musicians come from all over the Washington metropolitan area to rehearse with the group, some as far away as Pennsylvania and Southern Virginia.

“There’s a real mix in this group and they always deliver quite a show,” said Patterson.

The Rockville Concert Band performs free Sunday afternoon concerts throughout the year at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville Civic Center Park. ■



The Rockville Civic Ballet performs Swan Lake (Act III & IV) and Sonata... *The all-volunteer dance company ranges in age from granddaughters to grandmothers. They will captivate the audience with their grace in a spring production on April 13 and 14.*

Simply Enchanting

Local Musician Talented Well Beyond His Years

When the sounds of the piano fill the theatre, it is hard to believe that the musician touching the keys is only a sophomore at Richard Montgomery High School. Edmund O. Morris is simply enchanting.

On April 13 and 14, Morris will delight the audience at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre when he performs three movements from Mozart's "Sonata In F" in the company of the Rockville Civic Ballet.

A fifth-year classical piano student at the Levine School of Music, Morris has previously performed with the Rockville Civic Ballet and Rockville Musical Theatre. He will be playing while the ballet performs "Sonata".

"It is quite something to hear him play," said Betty Wisda, Rockville's Arts Programs Supervisor. "No one doubts that his musical talent and hard work will take him very far in the music profession."



Edmund O. Morris

When Morris is not entertaining audiences with works by Bach and Joplin, he is a violinist with the Richard Montgomery High School orchestra and a piano accompanist for the school's treble and concert choirs.

"I plan to continue my musical studies," said Morris, "all the way to the concert stage." ■

The Rockville Civic Ballet presents
Swan Lake (Act III and IV) and Sonata
Directed by Claudia Mangan
Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 14, 2:30 p.m.



Ticket prices:

- \$7/General Admission
- \$5/Seniors (60 and older)
- \$5/Children (12 and under)
- \$6.50/Group Rates (7 or more general admission)
- \$4.50/Group Rates (10 or more children or seniors)

Assigned seats may be purchased in advance.
Call the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office
at 301-545-5660.

2002 F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference Calls for Contest Entries

For those whose passion is writing short stories, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference has opportunities awaiting.

Each year the conference, named for the legendary American author who is buried in Rockville, sponsors two short story contests, one for Montgomery County students and the other for residents of Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C.

The winner of each contest will win a cash prize and the chance to read their short story at the annual conference on Oct. 26 at Montgomery College in Rockville. This year's conference honoree is author John Updike.

All entries must include a cover sheet that lists the writer's name, address and phone number. The writer's name *should not* appear on subsequent pages of the story.

The contests are being sponsored by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. and supported by the City of Rockville, Montgomery College, Gazette Newspapers, Rockville Cultural Arts Commission, Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation Ltd. and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society.

All entries must be postmarked by July 12, 2002. Send story submissions to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference Contest, c/o Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850. For more information on the short story contests, call 301-309-9461. ■

Short Story Contest For High School Students

- Open to any high school student who resides or attends school in Montgomery County
- Entries must be unpublished.
- Stories must be between 1,000 to 3,000 words in length and typed double-spaced.
- First prize winner will receive \$250 and an invitation to read the story at the annual conference. Three runner-up prizes of \$100 each also will be awarded.
- There is no entry fee.

Short Story Contest

- Open to any resident of Maryland, Virginia or Washington D.C.
- Entries must be unpublished.
- Entries must be less than 3,000 words and typed in 10- or 12-point size (double-spaced).
- First prize winner will receive \$1,000 and an invitation to read the story at the annual conference. Three runner-up prizes of \$200 each also will be awarded.
- The entry fee is \$25 per entry. *(The entry fee will be waived for F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. members).*

Pulitzer Winner Michael Dirda Talks About Life as a Book Critic

Do you ever wonder what life is like for an editor of a major newspaper's book review section?

You can find the answer on Monday, April 15, when the Rockville-based F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. presents an evening with Pulitzer Prize winner and *Washington Post Book World* senior writer and editor Michael Dirda at 7:30 p.m. at Rockville Arts Place in Rockville Town Center.

Dirda will talk on "Reading, Writing and Reviewing: Life at *The Washington Post Bookworld*." He will discuss literary journalism and give a glimpse into what life is like as a national book reviewer.

"Having someone of this magnitude come and speak is very exciting," said John Moser, Chairperson of Rockville's Cultural Arts Commission and President of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. "Our first event leading up to our annual literary conference will feature a Pulitzer Prize winner and our last event at the conference will feature a Pulitzer Prize winner [conference honoree John Updike]. And

there will be many great events in between. We are very excited about this." Dirda won a Pulitzer Prize for distinguished criticism in 1993. His literary interests range from intellectual history to contemporary fiction to mysteries and children's books.

Rockville Arts Place is located on 100 East Middle Lane in Rockville Town Center. It is within walking distance of the Rockville Metro Center (Red Line).

The event is free for F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. members. A \$10 admission fee, payable at the door, will be charged to all non-members. The fee will be waived for any attendee who signs up to join the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. at the event.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. organizes the annual fall conference and hosts various events and workshops to promote literature throughout the year. This year's conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26, at Montgomery College in Rockville. ■

Mayor and Council
Mayor Larry Giammo
Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey
Councilmember John F. Hall, Jr.
Councilmember Susan R. Hoffmann
Councilmember Anne M. Robbins

FOCUS ON THE ARTS

Betty Wisda
Arts Programs Supervisor, FOCUS Editor

Focus on the Arts is the official Arts Newsletter for the City of Rockville Cultural Arts Commission and the Arts Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks, published quarterly at 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. It is delivered to all residents of Rockville as an insert in the City of Rockville newsletter. Deadline for news is one month before publishing. Call 301-309-3327.

Kathleen Moran
Arts Programs Specialist

Cultural Arts Commission
John Moser, Chair
John Britton
Carole Butler
Ken Lechter
Eileen Mader
Greg Manougian
Hsien-Ann Meng
George Northway
Maura Parrott
Sue Pierce
Peg Sante



Customer Service with an Art Flare...*Rockville employee Julie Bell assists customers at the Recreation Counter in the lobby of Rockville City Hall. Ruth Spector's artwork is displayed in the background.*

Brightening Up the Lobby Of Rockville’s City Hall

The walls of Rockville’s City Hall lobby never look the same, and that effect takes much planning and effort. After the atrium lobby area of City Hall was renovated in 1999, the lobby became the scene of wonderful art displays that change each month to reflect the season or a cultural event that the City is celebrating, such as African American History Month or Peerless Rockville Historic Month. Once only concrete blocks, the walls have been transformed into a showcase for the talents of local artists. Each month, a local artist’s work is displayed for the public, employees and anyone else who passes through City Hall to enjoy. “The art brightens up City Hall and gives artists with a range of experiences a chance to show off some of their work to the community,” said Kathleen Moran, the City’s Arts Programs Specialist who oversees the program. Currently on display in City Hall until

the end of March is the artwork of 34-year Rockville resident, and former Montgomery County Council member, Ruth Spector. Her collection includes elegant woodcuts, etchings and watercolors in various media. “City Hall is a place where you wouldn’t plan on going to see art,” said Spector, who has had her art displayed at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and other locations throughout Montgomery County. “The unexpectedness of it is fun for someone who is coming to pay a bill or register for a recreation class. You don’t have to make a whole process of going to the national gallery or the Glenview Mansion to see art.” In April, two former Rockville City employees will display their handmade art quilt collection in the lobby. In May, Peerless Rockville will display a collection of historical black and white photos and artist renderings of Rockville’s past. For more information on City Hall Art Exhibits call 301-309-3354. ■

Take a Mid-Week Break With Noontime Serenades

Need a little help to get through the workweek? Try treating yourself to a mid-week break with the City of Rockville’s Noontime Serenades at Rockville Arts Place (RAP). This free entertainment series will take place every Wednesday in May at 12 noon at RAP, located in Rockville Town Center at 100 E. Middle Lane. Bring your lunch and allow some extra time to view the current exhibit at the gallery and tour the studios of resident artists. Tentative schedule of free performances by the following groups:

- The **NCO String Quartet** is made up of members from the Washington metropolitan area’s premiere professional chamber orchestra. The quartet’s program will delight audiences with classical repertoires.
- **Silverwinds** features flute players from the Washington metropolitan area. Their musical selection will include classical and baroque music.
- **Greg Friedmann**, a “finger-style” guitarist, will play original arrangements from the Big Band and Jazz eras of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, as well as instrumental songs in the new age, progressive and folk genres.

Look for more information on Noontime Serenades in the May edition of *Rockville Reports*. Fliers will be available at Rockville City Hall, Glenview Mansion, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, Rockville Senior Center, Rockville Municipal Swim Center, Croydon Creek Nature Center, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, and Lincoln Park Community Center in early April. ■

Spring Arts In Rockville

Glenview Mansion

At the Rockville Civic Center Park

Art Gallery Exhibits
Second floor (accessible)
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 p.m.
Closed official holidays

ROCKVILLE STUDENT ART SHOW
March 23- April 2
Varied media, students K-12

TEXTILES - NEW WORK
Hillary L. Steel
Handwoven, Hand Dyed
CEREMONIAL PIECES & TOTEMS
Janet Wheeler
Mixed Media
April 7-30
Opening Reception:
Sunday, April 7, 1-4 p.m.
Artist Talk:
Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
Guided Gallery Tour:
April 19, 10 a.m.

ROCKVILLE ART LEAGUE
May 5-28
Juried members show, Various media
Opening Reception:
Sunday, May 5, 1-4 p.m.

THREE VIEWS - LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS
Raymond J. Burns,
Mary K. Kokoski, Elena Maza
June 2- July 2
Opening Reception:
Sunday, June 2, 1-4 p.m.
Artist Talk:
Thursday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.
Guided Gallery Tour:
Friday, June 14, 10 a.m.

Sunday Afternoon Concert Series
1st floor- Conservatory
Free - Seating on a first-come basis

George and Marilyn Minter
Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m.
Popular classics in song and keyboard

Rockville Singers
Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m.
Outreach group of the Rockville Community Chorus
Varied Repertoire

Namu Lwanga
Original Song
Sunday, June 2, 2 p.m.

*Senior Citizens (60 and older) may attend dress rehearsals. Tickets are required and may be obtained at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

At the Rockville Civic Center Park

NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Concert
April 5 & 6, 8 p.m.
Brian Ganz, Piano
Rossini - Overture to Italiana in Algeri
Chopin - Krakowiak
Chopin - Fantasy on Polish Airs
Mozart - Symphony No. 41, “Jupiter”
Concert Tickets: \$35, \$26, \$17

ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE
We Won’t Pay, We Won’t Pay!
April 25*, 26, 27, & May 3, 4, 10, 11 at 8 p.m.
May 5, 2:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$12 General Admission

ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND
Concert
Sunday, April 28, 3 p.m.
Free (Tickets are not required.)

NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Piano Recital
May 18, 8 p.m.
Philip Hosford
Works by Bach/Busoni, Schumann, Liszt, and Kodaly
Piano Recital Tickets: \$21, \$16, \$11

ROCKVILLE COMMUNITY CHORUS
Spring Concert
Sunday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Free (Tickets are not required.)

VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY
The Gondoliers
June *6, 7, 8, 14, 15 at 8 p.m.
June 9, 16 at 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$14 General Admission
\$12 Student (16 years and under)

ROCKVILLE REGIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA
Concert
Sunday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.
Free (Tickets are not required.)

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD THEATRE BOX OFFICE
Hours: 2-7 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday and two hours prior to performance
Location: F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20851

Box Office/Info Line: 301-545-5660
Directions Line: 301-309-3007
Arts Hot Line: 301-309-3057
Website: www.ci.rockville.md.us